

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 073205

63

ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66614

DRAFTED BY: NEA/AFN:JVMONTVILLE

APPROVED BY: NEA/AFN:MWWILEY

----- 061751

O 012028Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073205

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 2245 ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
ABU DHABI AMMAN ALGIERS BEIRUT BONN BRUSSELS CAIRO VAIHINGEN  
DHAHRAN DOHA KUWAIT LONDON MANAMA MUSCAT PARIS ROME TEHRAN  
TEL AVIV TUNIS DTD 29 MAR

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2245

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN SAUDI ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCAL SITUATION

SUMMARY: ROYAL DECREES IN THE LAST TWO DAYS HAVE  
GIVE SOMEWHAT NEW SHAPE TO THE SAG UNDER KING  
KHALED. HE WILL REMAIN PRIME MINISTER AND  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. CROWN PRINCE FAHD  
BECAME FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND NATIONAL  
GUARD COMMANDER ABDULLAH BECOMES SECOND DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER. THE LATE KING FAISAL'S SON  
SAUDI HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS. KHALED HAS NEVER SHOWN MUCH INTEREST IN  
AFFAIRS OF STATE AND FAHD WILL PROBABLY ASSUME MOST  
OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 073205

FAHD'S FORMAL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN ENHANCED, BUT THE

RELATIVE POWER OF ABDULLAH SEEMS TO HAVE REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME. THE FORMAL STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOW STAND AS IT IS FOR SOME MONTHS, BUT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A GREAT DEAL OF MANEUVERING FOR POWER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK. IN THE MEANTIME, LIFE IN THE COUNTRY IS RETURNING TO NORMAL WHILE THE GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZES CONTINUITY AND UNITY.

END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 29, KING KHALED ISSUED A DECREE CONFIRMING ALL PRESENT MINISTERS IN THEIR MINISTERIAL POSTS. THE WORDING OF THE DECREE WAS SUCH AS TO ALSO CONFIRM THE KING AS PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. ON MARCH 29, FURTHER DECREES WERE ISSUED SLIGHTLY REORGANIZING THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE UNDER KHALED AS FOLLOWS:

A. CROWN PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ DESIGNATED AS FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AS WELL AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR;

B. PRINCE ABDULLAH, SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AS WELL AS COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD;

C. NAIF BIN ABD AL-AZIZ (FORMERLY VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR) TO BE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS AND MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS;

D. SAUD AL-FAISAL BIN ABD AL-AZIZ (SON OF THE LATE KING AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF PETROLEUM) TO BE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS--THE POSITION LAST HELD BY THE LATE OMAR SAQQAF.

3. FAHD HAS NOW BEEN FREED FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY WORKINGS OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND WILL PRESUMABLY DEVOTE HIMSELF FULLY TO HIS FUNCTION AS FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. THOUGH KING KHALED RETAINS THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 073205

HIS RECORD OF INDIFFERENCE TO AFFAIRS OF STATE LEADS US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HE WILL NOT NORMALLY BE ACTIVE IN THIS CAPACITY AND THAT PRINCE FAHD WILL, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, BE THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. THOUGH FAHD'S PREEMINENT POSITION HAS NOW BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED TO SOME EXTENT, THINGS HAVE NOT GONE ALL HIS WAY. HE IS KNOWN, FOR INSTANCE, TO

HAVE WANTED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT SAUD AL FAISAL'S APPOINTMENT SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT KHALED WILL RETAIN THAT POSITION AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. ABDULLAH HAS ALSO TAKEN A STEP UP THE LADDER. IT IS NOT APPARENT THAT THIS WILL NECESSARILY DETRACT FROM FAHD'S AUTHORITY, BUT ABDULLAH'S RELATIVE POWER REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME.

5. WITH THIS LATEST SERIES OF DECREES THE NEW FORMAL STRUCTURE OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE BEEN SET FOR A FEW MONTHS AT LEAST. WITHIN THIS STRUCTURE, HOWEVER, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A GREAT DEAL OF MANEUVERING TO ENHANCE THE POSITON OF VATIOUS FACTIONS. PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ (THE KING'S OLDER FULL BROTHER) HAS, FOR INSTANCE, COME OUT OF OBSCURITY AND HAS BEEN PROMINENTLY IN THE NEWS, RECEIVING CONDOLENCE CALLS FROM GREAT NUMBERS OF CITIZENRY, AND RENOUNCED HIS OWN CLAIM TO BECOME CROWN PRINCE AT THE TIME KHALED WAS SO DESIGNATED.)

6. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS APPROACH OF THE SAG HAS BEEN TO EMPHASIZE CONTINUITY AND THE SOLIDARITY OF THE SAUDI FAMILY AND THE NATION. LIFE IN THE MAJOR CITIES HAS ABOUT RETURNED TO NORMAL. MINISTRIES ARE IN THEORY BACK TO WORK AGAIN. THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY (I.E. LZADING MEMBERS OF THE SAUD FAMILY) IS, HOWEVER, STPLL PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ASSASSINATION AND ITS AFTERMATH. THE PRINCES ARE DAILY RECEIVING MASSES OF CALLERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WHO HAVE COME TO OFFER CONDOLENCES AND TO PLEDGZ THEIR LOYALTY TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP.

7. KING FAISAL IS BEING DESCRIBED BY SAUDI MEDIA AS A MARTYR;  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 073205

REFERENCE TO HIS MEMORY, PLUS THE PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF LOYALTY TO KING KHALID AND THE EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN SUPPORT OF THE SAUDI REGIME WILL HELP TO GET THE NEW REGIME OFF TO A GOOD PR BEGINNING WITH ITS PEOPLE AND NEIGHBORS.

8. AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE PURPOSIVE REACTION OF THE REGIME TO THE KING'S ASSASSINATION, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE NAYEF ALMOST IMMEDIATELY SET OFF FOR THE EASTERN PROVINCE TO ASSURE BY HIS PRESENCE THE STABILITY OF THIS IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE PART OF THE KINGDOM. AKINS UNQTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL LEADERS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE073205  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NEA/AFN:JVMONTVILLE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750112-1156  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750492/aaaadggt.tel  
**Line Count:** 166  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEVELOPMENTS IN SAUDI ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCAL SITUATION SUMMARY: ROYAL DECREES IN THE LAST TWO DAYS HAVE  
**TAGS:** PINT, SA, (KHALED), (FAHD, PRINCE), (ABDULLAH, PRINCE), (FAISAL, SAUD AL), (AZIZ, NAIF BIN ABD AL)  
**To:** RABAT  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006